

**Administrative Office of the Courts
Supreme Court of New Mexico**

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TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Pam Sánchez, Statewide Program Manager, Language Access Services
RE: Becoming a Certified Court Interpreter in New Mexico

Thank you for your interest in our interpreter certification program. The first formal step toward certification is to attend our online orientation. Since July 2013, this mandatory step in the certification process is offered online through the New Mexico Center for Language Access, a program of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). In 2014 the orientation, Introduction to Court Interpreting, is being offered beginning January 27, April 7, July 14, and October 20. Once you complete the course, you can select other training options or register for the written exam (see info below).

This mandatory class costs \$150.00 and you can register at:
<http://nmcenterforlanguageaccess.org>

Many of your questions about court interpreter certification can be answered on the National Center for State Court's (NCSC) website. NCSC also has a Spanish/English Practice Exam Kit and a generic Practice Exam Kit, which I highly recommend as excellent resources for both practice and understanding the testing approach. You find all this information at: <http://www.ncsc.org>. Click on Education and Careers and then on State Interpreter Certification.

Following the initial class, you must take and pass the English, multiple-choice written exam, which is offered several times a year, and then take and pass three oral examinations.

To pass the written and oral exams you need a fairly high level of skill in English and your other language. You must be able to speak, read and write at a very high level in both languages. Observing interpreters in court or simply observing in court are especially good ways to begin to build your courtroom vocabulary and understanding of courtroom procedures. Please check out the dictionary list at <http://www.nmcourts.gov/newface/court-interp/files/Essential%20Dictionaries%20for%20Court%20Interpreters.pdf?uid=05.17.2013>, which you might find helpful.

Another great resource for vocabulary and self-education are the Interpreter's Edge materials available from ACEBO at: <http://www.aceboproducts.com/>

Please send an e-mail to Renee Lovato and she will add you to our distribution list:
aocrjl@nmcourts.gov Good luck in your preparation!

Pam Sánchez
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